

Shaker Church Family Trustees' Office (Second)  
(Shaker Church Family Office Building)  
E. side of Shaker Road, 1 mi. S. of  
State Rt. 2A, approx. 2 mi. W. of  
Worcester-Middlesex County line  
Harvard  
Worcester County  
Massachusetts

HABS No. MASS-809

HABS  
MASS  
14-HARV  
11-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

SHAKER CHURCH FAMILY TRUSTEES' OFFICE (SECOND)  
(SHAKER CHURCH FAMILY OFFICE BUILDING)HABS  
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Location: East side of Shaker Road, 1 mile south of State Rt. 2A, approximately 2 miles west of Worcester-Middlesex County line, Harvard, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Present Owner and Occupant: Philip and Katherine D. Finkelpearl

Present Use: Residence

Statement of Significance: This is the largest and most impressive of the Harvard Shaker Dwellings (see also the almost identical dwelling in the South Family). Its construction occurred at the peak of the Shaker Community at Harvard.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: Not exactly known; probably about 1840.
2. Architect, builder and suppliers: Unknown. Ellis Harlow is mentioned in the Shaker Journals, now at the Fruitlands Museum, Harvard, Massachusetts, as giving instruction in framing at this time and may have been involved with this building.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The Harvard Shakers; the Shakers sold the property to Fiske Warren of Harvard, in 1918, who incorporated it into his single-tax Tahanto Enclave; Robert Treat Paine bought the property c. 1936; the property was then sold to Philip and Katherine D. Finkelpearl in 1956.
4. Alterations and additions: In 1936 Bruce Elwell, a Boston architect, remodeled the building adding a fireplace, altering the interior of the rear ell, converting the carriage shed to a garage, etc.

## B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

Thomas Wolfe (novelist) was interested in purchasing the building, according to oral tradition. Norbert Weiner mentions in his autobiography purchasing peppermint candies in this building. The building is said to have the first modern plumbing on a second floor level (main floor of the building) in New England.

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C. Sources of Information:

There is an old photograph in the possession of Philip and Katherine D. Finkelpearl; date unknown, but probably early twentieth century.

Prepared by Bayard Underwood, AIA  
Shakerton Foundation, Inc.  
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